

THE 4970 – BA Senior Project  
Meeting Times TBD  
Spring 2021

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**Project Advisor:** Ryan Hope Travis

**BA Coordinator:** Dr. Charlie Mitchell

**Meeting Times:** To Arrange

**Credits:** 1

**Prerequisites:** Approval of BA Coordinator (Dr. Charlie Mitchell) and Project Advisor

**Office Hours:** 11:00am-12:45pm (Mon.), 12:30pm-2:30pm (Tues.) & By Appointment

**Phone:** 352-273-0500

**Email:** rtravis@arts.ufl.edu

### **Course Description**

Completion of a research project to be undertaken with an advisor's consent in the final semester.

### **Coordinator/Instructor of Record**

The BA Coordinator will be the default Project Advisor for all BA Senior Projects. However, every student is encouraged to choose an alternate faculty member who more closely aligns with the student's topic of study.

### **Purpose of Course**

The Senior Project in the BA is designed as a capstone project for the Bachelor of Arts in Theatre track. Students usually enroll in THE 4970 during the last semester of their senior year.

### **Description of Projects**

The Senior Project shall consist of a significant piece of work that will demonstrate the students' expertise in both the academic and practical fields of the theatre, resulting in a document of substantial length (usually 10-20 pages). Students can choose from the following options:

- a research paper on a topic of practical/scholarly importance. Here are some past examples: Black Male Identity as Revealed in Plays Written During the Obama Presidency, An Investigation of the Use of Robots as Actors in Live Performance, and Latinx Theatre Through the Plays of Maria Irene Fornes and Carmen Rivera
- a paper that details a student's stage management work on a production
- a paper that details a student's dramaturgical work on a production
- a paper that uses archival research such as the Belknap Collection or the School's own archives and primary documents

The BA Senior Project topic will not usually be about a performance, i.e. acting in or directing a play. In this course, students will:

- Identify and refine a research question or problem for investigation
- Develop an appropriate methodology
- Clarify the approach and topics to be addressed in the paper (create a paper outline)

- Conduct a review of pertinent literature
- Integrate the knowledge acquired in a paper that documents the findings, methodology and implications of the project

**Basic Requirement/Expectations**

The student will:

- Have your project idea approved by the BA Coordinator and choose a Project Advisor.
- Fill out a project form and get the proper signatures (it must be approved no later than two weeks into the semester);
- Consult with his/her Project Advisor on a regular basis to discuss the status of the research project;
- Establish meeting times and deadlines for drafts and final submission of the paper;
- Submit the paper for review according to predetermined deadlines.

**Scheduled Meeting Times**

Meetings are to be arranged between the BA student and the Project Advisor. The student is responsible for keeping the Project Advisor up-to-date on his/her progress. In the case of a project connected to a production (e.g., dramaturgy), the Project Advisor will attend rehearsals or performances - within reason - upon the student’s request.

**Grading**

The project grade is assessed by the Project Advisor, based primarily on the quality of the written work submitted. Credit toward graduation is granted only if the student’s work results in a grade of “B” or better.

**SCALE**

A	100-94	4.0	C	76-74	2.0
A-	93-90	3.67	C-	73=70	1.67
B+	89-87	3.33	D+	69-67	1.33
B	86-84	3.0	D	66-64	1.0
B-	83-80	2.67	D-	63-60	.67
C+	79-77	2.33	E	59-0	0

**Attendance Policy:**

Students are expected to stay home and seek medical help for COVID-19 symptoms or exposure (persistent cough, fever 100.4+, new loss of taste or smell, muscle pain/headaches, shortness of breath, sore throat, chills, diarrhea, or feeling generally ill). The culture of hiding illness or the “show must go on” mentality must be avoided. Students who are medically required to quarantine will have documentation from a medical provider. Students who self-quarantine must communicate with the instructor and “attend” courses remotely synchronously, when available, or asynchronously if approved by the instructor.

Barring the above circumstances, students are expected to be in attendance (either remotely or in-person, as assigned) daily and to be on time. Students are allowed 1 “unexcused” absence that does not require documentation and does not conform to the UF “acceptable reasons for absence.” Any other “unexcused” absence will result in a penalty of a full letter grade (10%) from the final grade per “unexcused” absence. To be considered “excused” an absence must be accompanied by appropriate official documentation. Religious observances do not require documentation.

Any absence from class for the following reasons must be supported by official acceptable documentation to avoid a grade penalty:

- Illness—doctor's note must be on official letterhead with address and phone number, noting the date and time of visit and diagnosis verifying that an absence from class is warranted, doctor name and signature
- Serious family emergencies
- Special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences)
- Military obligation
- Severe weather conditions
- Participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate
- Court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena)

To help organize accommodations, students should inform the instructor by the end of the second week of classes of religious observances of their faith that will conflict with class attendance this semester.

Any student that acquires 3 absences (either excused or unexcused) will be required to meet with this course’s instructor and/or area faculty to discuss the student’s continued participation in the course. For Majors: Failure to attend this meeting will result in Artistic Probation.

Due to the participatory nature of the course that includes in-class collaboration along with partner and ensemble work, if a student acquires more than 2 unexcused absences, the student may be prohibited from participation in partner/group exercises which will affect the student’s final grade.

\*NOTE: Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: [catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/](http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/)

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### **COVID Related Practices:**

We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms](#).
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. [Find more information in the university attendance policies](#).

### **Privacy Statement Related to the Online Component of this Course:**

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

### **Course Evaluations:**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here](#).

### **Academic Honesty Policy:**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [Click here to read the Honor Code](#). Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel.

## **Campus Resources:**

### Health & Wellness

1. *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [umatter.ufl.edu/](http://umatter.ufl.edu/) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
2. *Counseling and Wellness Center*: Visit [counseling.ufl.edu/](http://counseling.ufl.edu/) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
3. *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit [shcc.ufl.edu/](http://shcc.ufl.edu/).
4. *University Police Department*: Visit [police.ufl.edu/](http://police.ufl.edu/) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
5. *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center](http://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center).

### Academic Resources

1. *E-learning technical support*: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu).
2. *Career Connections Center*: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
3. *Library Support*: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
4. *Teaching Center*: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
5. *Writing Studio*: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
6. *Student Complaints On-Campus*: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).
7. *On-Line Students Complaints*: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).